

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 24–26, 32, 37, and 45–47 were previously pending.

Claims 37 and 47 are cancelled herein.

Claim 48 is added herein.

Claims 24–26, 32, 45, 46, and 48 are therefore pending and under consideration.

Claims 24–26, 32, 45, and 46 stand rejected.

No claims are amendeded herein.

No new matter has been added.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 24 – 26, 32, 45, and 46 are rejected as obvious over Ron (US Patent 5,647,834) in view of Grunwald, (US PAP 2002/0173721). The rejection is traversed for the following reason.

Amended claim 24 recites detecting an anxiety level of the user has increased, and removing one or more user interface configuration options settable by the user. The removing comprises "causing the one or more user interface configuration options to not be settable, among other user interface configuration options, by the user".

Ron detects anxiety but merely provides feedback to indicate same (sound, icons, etc.). Ron has no teaching or suggestion to simply a user interface by removing configuration options thereof. The rejection proposes modifying Ron with Grunwald to meet the feature of causing one or more user interface configuration options to not be settable by the user.

The rejection cites paragraph 22, lines 1–5 of Grunwald. This portion of Grunwald

states, with emphasis added:

[0022] In an embodiment, in order to minimize the time for setting up and configuring the system the user interface may provide for application and/or user dependent **presets**, which are optimized based on several factors (e.g., user behavior, image quality, etc.).

As paragraph [0077] explains, the "presets" mentioned in paragraph [0022] are "presets (user preferences for **default settings**) that determine the configuration of ultrasound system 100 after power up and/or for a given imaging selection" (emphasis added). Paragraph [0087] states that "presets mode 404 may allow each user to assign her or his individual presets." Other portions of Grunwald confirm that the presents mentioned in paragraph [0022] are simply pre-defined settings for the imaging application of Grunwald. For example, paragraph [0248] states that "presets tab 2314 allows the user to select her or his preferences. User defined preferences may include, for example, the type of user (e.g., OB/QYN, cardiologist, or technician) the sets of measurements, calculations, and/or reports presented to the user and/or the mode of first view that appears upon powering up."

The rejection suggests adding Grunwald to Ron. However, as can be seen, Grunwald does not teach claim 24's feature of "causing the one or more user interface configuration options to not be settable, among other user interface configuration options, by the user". The options in Grunwald are simply default values and are settable by the user. Nothing in Grunwald indicates causing an option to be unsettable in response to event.

Grunwald's teaching also differs from claim 24 because nothing in Grunwald suggests that the preset settings are "user interface configuration options". The presets in Grunwald are only image presets, application presets, exam presets, and other settings relating to the configuration of the ultrasound system (see the second half of paragraph [0077]).

Finally, the combination of Grunwald and Ron fails to meet the above-mentioned feature of claim 24 because neither reference, nor any other information of record, suggests a need or reason for simplifying a user interface in response to detection of anxiety. Ron is not concerned with helping to improve an anxious user's interaction with a user interface. Ron is mainly concerned with how to provide a user with biofeedback for the purpose of emotional training ("monitoring at least one speech parameter characteristic of the subject's emotional state so as to produce an indication signal, and using the indication signal to provide the subject with an indication of the at least one physiological variable" (emphasis added). Grunwald has no concern with making an anxious user's interface simpler. Grunwald is only concerned with providing an efficient user interface due to the small size of the handheld ultrasound unit.

The rejection suggests that "it may be desirable in devices the user interface allows for quick and efficient interaction supported intelligent user interface behavior, context sensibility ... and the ability to self adapt to user behavior". However, this statement in Grunwald is so general that it fails to lead one to the specific feature of claim 24. There are nearly an infinite number of ways to "adapt to user behavior" and to have "quick and efficient interaction". Nothing in Grunwald, Ron, or any other fact of record suggest the specific anxiety-relieving adaptation of claim 24.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is requested.

Should any fees be required in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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